Economic and Social Council
Official Records, 2015
Supplement No. 26

E/2015/46-E/C.20/2015/17

Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

Report on the fifth session (5-7 August 2015)

United Nations • New York, 2015

Please recycle

Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

ISSN 2304-0505

[21 August 2015]

Contents

Chapter		Page
I.	Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention	5
	A. Draft decision for adoption by the Council	5
	Report of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management on its fifth session and provisional agenda and dates for the sixth session of the Committee	5
	B. Decisions brought to the attention of the Council	6
	5/101. Activities related to sustainable development and the post-2015 development agenda	6
	5/102. Global geodetic reference frame	7
	5/103. Determination of global fundamental geospatial data themes	7
	5/104. Integration of geospatial, statistical and other information	8
	5/105. Application of geospatial information related to land administration and management	9
	5/106. Trends in national institutional arrangements in geospatial information management	10
	5/107. Legal and policy frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data	11
	5/108. Implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community	12
	5/109. Development of a statement of shared guiding principles for geospatial information management	13
	5/110. Coordination of United Nations activities related to geospatial information management	13
	5/111. Knowledge base for geospatial information management	14
	5/112. Contribution of regional committees and thematic groups to the global geospatial agenda	15
	5/113. Programme review of the work of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management during the 2011-2015 period	16
II.	Items for endorsement, discussion and decision	18
	A. Activities related to sustainable development and the post-2015 development agenda	18
	B. Global geodetic reference frame	18
	C. Determination of global fundamental geospatial data themes	18

D. Integration of geospatial, statistical and other information 19
E. Application of geospatial information related to land administration and management .. 19
F. Trends in national institutional arrangements in geospatial information management ... 20
G. Legal and policy frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data 20
H. Implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community 21
I. Development of a statement of shared guiding principles for geospatial information management 21
J. Coordination of United Nations activities related to geospatial information management 22
K. Knowledge base for geospatial information management 22
L. Contribution of regional committees and thematic groups to the global geospatial agenda 23
M. Programme review of the work of the Committee of Experts during the 2011-2015 period 23
III. Provisional agenda and dates for the sixth session of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management 24
IV. Report of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management on its fifth session 25
V. Organization of the session 26
A. Opening and duration of the session 26
B. Attendance 26
C. Election of officers 26
D. Credentials 26
E. Agenda and organization of work 27
F. Rules of procedure 28
G. Documentation 28

Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Draft decision for adoption by the Council

1. The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management on its fifth session and provisional agenda and dates for the sixth session of the Committee

The Economic and Social Council:

(a) Takes note of the report of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management on its fifth session;

(b) Decides that the sixth session of the Committee of Experts shall be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 3 to 5 August 2016;

(c) Approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the sixth session of the Committee of Experts as set out below:

Provisional agenda for the sixth session of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Contribution of regional committees and thematic groups to the global geospatial information agenda.
4. Global geodetic reference frame.
5. Determination of global fundamental geospatial data themes.
6. Trends in national institutional arrangements in global geospatial information management.
7. Legal and policy frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data.
8. Implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community.
9. Integration of geospatial, statistical and other related information.
10. Application of geospatial information related to land administration and management.
11. Knowledge base for geospatial information management.
12. Review of United Nations activities in geospatial information management.

13. Activities related to sustainable development and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

14. Geospatial information and services for disasters.

15. Provisional agenda and dates for the seventh session of the Committee of Experts.

16. Report of the Committee of Experts on its sixth session.

B. Decisions brought to the attention of the Council

2. The following decisions adopted by the Committee of Experts are brought to the attention of the Council:

5/101
Activities related to sustainable development and the post-2015 development agenda

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Expressed its appreciation to the Secretariat for the comprehensive report describing the various activities undertaken in the past year to raise the profile of geospatial information as an enabler for sustainable development, and also expressed its appreciation to the countries and agencies that had actively contributed to the activities;

(b) Noted that the explicit mention of earth observation and geospatial information in the finalized text for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides a considerable opportunity for Member States since objective, comprehensive and authoritative data and information will be needed in a timely manner to support sustainable development policy and decision-making at all levels;

(c) Committed to working closely with the statistical community, at both the national and global levels, by providing inputs into the processes to develop the global indicator framework under the auspices of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators since many goals have a geospatial dimension;

(d) Supported the nomination of a limited number of Member State geospatial experts to the Inter-Agency and Expert Group so as to provide inputs into the development of the indicator framework;

(e) With a view to supporting the work of the Committee of Experts in the context of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group, agreed to the proposal to set up a small task team to assist in developing the inputs into the global indicator framework, building on existing work and ongoing working mechanisms and taking into account the importance of standards in this context;

(f) Stressed the need to support the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030[1] with the appropriate indicators;

(g) Stressed that appropriate resources and the commitment of policymakers would be necessary for the implementation of the global indicator framework in the future.

5/102
Global geodetic reference frame

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Took note of the work carried out by the working group on the global geodetic reference frame, under the leadership of Australia and Norway, and commended the members for their considerable efforts towards the successful adoption by the General Assembly of the resolution on the global geodetic reference frame for sustainable development;[2]

(b) Congratulated and expressed its appreciation to Fiji for its leadership in the preparatory process and in the final formulation and successful tabling of the resolution on the global geodetic reference frame to the General Assembly with the support of 52 co-sponsoring countries;

(c) Acknowledged the importance of the resolution on the global geodetic reference frame and of the road map as a critical enabler for Member States to leverage the importance of geodetic data-sharing, methods, sustainable funding and infrastructure to support growing societal needs, including for monitoring the progress of sustainable development;

(d) Took note of the various activities of the working group to inform the planning and development of the road map by gathering inputs from Member States on the key elements of the development and sustainability of the global geodetic reference frame, including the need to address the imbalance in the distribution of geodetic infrastructure globally, in particular between the North and the South;

(e) Encouraged Member States and the working group, in their efforts to develop the road map, to commit to undertaking a programme of outreach that highlights experiences and best practices for the global geodetic reference frame, particularly in developing countries;

(f) Requested the working group to continue its efforts to build on global and regional experiences and initiatives and to report back to the Committee of Experts at its next session on its progress towards delivering the road map.

5/103
Determination of global fundamental geospatial data themes

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Welcomed the report on the determination of global fundamental geospatial data themes, prepared by the Regional Committee of United

[1] General Assembly resolution 69/283, annex II.
[2] General Assembly resolution 69/266.

Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Europe,[3] and agreed that there is an urgent need for a set of global fundamental geospatial data themes that can be harmonized in order to enable the measurement, monitoring and management of sustainable development in a consistent way over time and to facilitate evidence-based decision-making and policymaking;

(b) Agreed that actions need to be taken by Member States and the international community to work jointly towards the formulation of a minimum set of fundamental data themes, noting the need for considering existing national and regional approaches, the specific needs and vulnerabilities of small island developing States, and appropriate technical specifications and standards, and recognizing the need to keep the efforts technical in nature so as not to raise political concerns;

(c) Supported the initiative proposed by the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Europe to establish and lead a working group to liaise with other regional committees of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management to bring together information on the consideration of fundamental geospatial data themes and to lead discussions between interested Member States and observers, with a view to developing an agreed minimum set of global fundamental geospatial data themes;

(d) Noted the suggestions of Member States for the working group to consider the prioritization of the fundamental data themes, national experiences in the formulation of the data themes and linkages to other data needs within the programme of work of the Committee of Experts, and requested the working group to report on progress made in that regard to the Committee at its next session;

(e) Supported the establishment of the GlobeLand30 International Advisory Committee, requested the Secretariat to reach out to appropriate subject matter experts and leaders in the global geospatial community in efforts to seek their participation in the International Advisory Committee, and requested that Committee to include, in its terms of reference, the means for ensuring data accuracy and validation and new means for capturing information to address the needs of small island developing States.

5/104
Integration of geospatial, statistical and other information

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Welcomed the report prepared by the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information,[4] and noted the progress made by the Expert Group in tackling technical, institutional and policy issues common to both the geospatial and statistical communities;

(b) Appreciated the informative exchange of national experiences in geocoding and institutional cooperation, and the extensive ongoing regional work in this area, and encouraged other regional bodies to contribute to the

[3] See E/C.20/2015/4.
[4] See E/C.20/2015/8.

work so that the Expert Group would be able to continue to take national and regional experiences into account and build on them;

(c) Took note of the request of Member States of the Caribbean region to encourage the secretariats of the regional bodies of the Caribbean Community, the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, and the Association of Caribbean States to facilitate mechanisms for the statistical offices and geospatial agencies in the Caribbean region that would enhance collaboration on the integration of geospatial and statistical information for regional development, an imminent opportunity being the 2020 round of censuses;

(d) Reiterated that statistical and geospatial communities are major contributors to the information used in evidence-based decision-making across many sectors, whether public or private, at the national and global levels, and in this context highlighted the integration opportunities associated with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the ongoing debate in disaster risk reduction, and stressed that increased institutional coordination and cooperation between the geospatial and statistical agencies, and other stakeholders, was vitally important and a key factor to the success of data integration;

(e) Also reiterated the importance of paying close attention to the specific technical aspects of policy, confidentiality and privacy issues;

(f) Acknowledged that the 2020 population census is an important opportunity for integration at all stages of a census cycle, reaffirmed that focus as an urgent priority of the Expert Group, and expressed agreement on the need to develop specific guidelines in this context;

(g) While recognizing that the 2020 population census is a welcome opportunity for integration, stressed the need to work towards more continuous and dynamic integration of all statistical data and geospatial information to create new information systems with enhanced analytical potential;

(h) Encouraged the continued involvement of the geospatial community within Member States in the work of the Expert Group and its participation in related appropriate events and global and regional consultations, and noted that the Expert Group would undertake to develop the global geospatial-statistical framework for presentation to the Statistical Commission and the Committee of Experts in 2016.

5/105
Application of geospatial information related to land administration and management

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Welcomed the report[6] and detailed discussion paper on the application of geospatial information related to land administration and management, and expressed its appreciation to the international organizations, agencies and Member States for their considered expert contributions;

[6] See E/C.20/2015/9.

(b) Acknowledged the importance and need for geospatial information as an essential base for an effective and efficient land information system to support the administration of land policy frameworks, customary rights, security of tenure, property rights, sustainable development and overall environmental, economic and social well-being;

(c) Further acknowledged the need for the Committee of Experts to play a leading role at the policy level by raising political awareness and highlighting the importance to decision makers of the need for timely and fit for purpose land administration and management, and supported by capacity development, particularly in developing countries and vulnerable regions;

(d) Endorsed the establishment of an expert group to undertake the work needed to advance the activities related to land administration and management, and to strengthen the use of geospatial information for good land governance, and recommended that the group collaborate with other professional bodies and experts working in the field, including United Nations entities and other international organizations;

(e) Noting that land, and linking people to place, is reflected in several of the sustainable development goals and that access to geospatial information is necessary to reach several of the goals, requested the expert group to undertake work that is able to contribute to the indicator process and areas, as appropriate, including access to land, property rights, ownership, land degradation, rapid urbanization and climate change, and also requested the expert group to coordinate with other expert entities in that regard;

(f) Approved and supported the convening of the fourth High-Level Forum on Global Geospatial Information Management, to be held in Addis Ababa in April 2016, with a focus on land administration and management, and with a particular emphasis on sharing experiences, including benefits and challenges, considering "fit-for-purpose" aspects, digital land registers, cadastres, and other land data needs, demonstrating practical examples of land administration success stories;

(g) Requested that an action plan, informed by broad global consultation and the outcomes of the High-Level Forum, be prepared by the expert group to address the main areas of focus identified in the discussion paper and inputs from Member States, ensuring that there is no overlap or duplication with other initiatives, including regional initiatives, and requested the expert group to report to the Committee of Experts at its next session on progress.

5/106
Trends in national institutional arrangements in geospatial information management

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Welcomed the report of the working group on trends in national institutional arrangements in geospatial information management,[6] and its

[6] See E/C.20/2015/5.

three task teams, and commended them on the amount of collaboration and work achieved within a short period;

(b) Took note of the extensive analysis of the results of the questionnaires that were circulated globally and that have generated a valuable source of information to be used in the future, and expressed its appreciation to Member States for their contributions received;

(c) Noted the importance and complexity of national institutional arrangements and the broad scope of processes they attempt to capture, and in this regard provided guidance as to how the working group might evaluate the status of efforts on progress in the national institutional arrangements, including providing additional clarity on the process and on the conclusions drafted to date, ensuring that further efforts would be made to avoid duplication of the work of other working groups within the Committee of Experts, ensuring that its deliberations and outcomes were more focused and that these could potentially be compiled into a valuable reference document;

(d) Encouraged Member States to actively participate in the work programme of the working group, and requested that the working group report to the Committee of Experts at its next session, having addressed the present inputs and suggestions by the Committee.

5/107
Legal and policy frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Welcomed the report on legal and policy frameworks,[7] including issues related to authoritative data, and expressed its appreciation to the Centre for Spatial Law and Policy for its valuable contribution in monitoring development in this field;

(b) Noted the updates on recent developments and increased focus that could have an impact on legal and policy frameworks supporting geospatial information, and also noted that the geospatial community now needed to be more proactively engaged with issues relating to the collection, use, privacy, provenance and, accessibility of data, as well as issues related to the use of unmanned aircraft systems (drones) and other potentially intrusive devices;

(c) Recognized the concerns expressed by Member States regarding a proposed convention on geoinformation by the International Bar Association, and agreed that the convention, as indicated, was not reflective, did not provide an understanding of how geospatial information is utilized, and did not balance perceived legal and policy risks with the numerous benefits associated with the many critical uses of geospatial information, and that ways needed to be identified to find this balance;

(d) Noted the growing relevance of geospatial information and the need for two-way public education and awareness, for geospatial professionals to understand the legislative processes and the creation of laws and their implications, and for the legal profession and legislators to understand the

[7] See E/C.20/2015/6.

wider use and benefits of geospatial information, and agreed that a plan of action and strategy should be prepared in consultation with the Centre for Spatial Law and Policy, relevant Member States and other experts, in order to begin the advocacy and engagement process among relevant parties;

(e) Supported the convening of an international forum on legal and policy issues and frameworks at an appropriate time in 2016, and with suitable advance notice for Member States, with a view to intensifying, taking a more proactive role in and facilitating a more informed dialogue on the identified issues, including national policies;

(f) Encouraged contributions from Member States, and appropriate international professional associations and academia on the planning, content and conduct of the legal and policy forum.

5/108
Implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Welcomed the report prepared jointly by the Open Geospatial Consortium, Technical Committee 211 of the International Organization for Standardization and the International Hydrographic Organization,[8] and expressed its appreciation to them and their many experts for their collaborative efforts in producing and finalizing the standards Guide and Companion document;

(b) Adopted the final published "Guide to the role of standards in geospatial information management" and the "Technical compendium" as the international geospatial standards best practice for spatial data infrastructure, and encouraged all Member States to adopt and implement the recommended standards appropriate to level of spatial data infrastructure maturity in their countries;

(c) Encouraged Member States to continue to work in cooperation with the international standards bodies, including participation, as appropriate, in the work programmes of the Open Geospatial Consortium, the Technical Committee 211 of the International Organization for Standardization and the International Hydrographic Organization, and requested the standards organizations to consider mechanisms to facilitate wider training programmes and to ensure the access to standards on reasonable terms, especially for developing countries;

(d) Expressed its appreciation to Saudi Arabia and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for providing resources to format, edit and print the Guide and the Companion document, and thanked Member States for their offers to provide translation services to enable the Guide and the Companion document to be accessible in all languages;

(e) Noted the need for the further development of harmonized and interoperable standards between the statistical and geospatial communities,

[8] See E/C.20/2015/7.

expressed its appreciation to the standards organizations for their increased efforts in this area, and encouraged Member States to contribute to these efforts, in particular through collaboration with the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information;

(f) Urged Member States to participate in the proposed joint study group and in the international geospatial standards development processes of the Open Geospatial Consortium, the Technical Committee 211 of the International Organization for Standardization and the International Hydrographic Organization and other relevant standards bodies, in order to ensure that the geospatial standards required to monitor and measure the sustainable development goals are relevant and available.

5/109
Development of a statement of shared guiding principles for geospatial information management

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Welcomed the report prepared by the working group on the development of a statement of shared guiding principles,[9] and congratulated them for their leadership in the preparation of the global Statement of Shared Guiding Principles for Geospatial Information Management;

(b) Adopted the Statement of Shared Guiding Principles for Geospatial Information Management, and encouraged Member States to endorse and implement them within their national circumstances;

(c) Supported the continued work of the working group, in collaboration with the Secretariat, to prepare and implement a communications process that informs and educates Member States and others within the global geospatial community on ways to adopt the Statement of Shared Guiding Principles for Geospatial Information Management and to consider a plan for updating the principles as needed, depending on technological, institutional and other changes having an impact on the geospatial sector, with the possibility of submitting the principles to the Economic and Social Council, if required in the future.

5/110
Coordination of United Nations activities related to geospatial information management

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Took note of the report on the coordination of United Nations activities related to geospatial information management,[10] stressed that the sessions of the Committee of Experts are indeed an appropriate platform to address coordination issues, and reiterated the invitation to all relevant stakeholders in the United Nations system active in the field of geospatial information management, such as the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, to actively participate;

[9] See E/C.20/2015/10.
[10] See E/C.20/2015/12.

(b) Noted the many valuable geospatial information initiatives undertaken throughout the United Nations system, while expressing some concern that they should be sustainable and not appear to be fragmented, called for a report documenting the existing geospatial resources, activities and governance arrangements of the United Nations system in a systematic manner, and invited the Secretariat to work closely with the United Nations Geographic Information Working Group to reach out to relevant United Nations partners to assist in the preparation of the report;

(c) Suggested that other existing United Nations coordination frameworks be studied in preparing the report, stressed the need for support from senior management to ensure effective cooperation, including the elaboration of a proposal for a more structured coordination mechanism, and agreed to include the issue of the effective coordination of geospatial activities of the United Nations system in the review prepared by the Committee of Experts on its work for presentation to the Economic and Social Council in 2016;

(d) Welcomed the initiative of the Secretariat to commission a study on improving geospatial information policy, processes and services to support emergency response and disaster risk reduction as a very concrete example of practical United Nations cooperation in a highly relevant field, and strongly supported the proposal to establish a working group to further develop and implement a strategic framework that would be:

(i) Focused in a practical manner;

(ii) Aligned with the outcome and follow-up to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and its implementation;

(iii) Able to take into consideration the special needs of developing countries, especially with respect to capacity building and sharing knowledge;

(iv) Broadly representative of different regions of the world and taking into account regional experiences;

(e) Welcomed the many expressions of interest by the Member States, and invited the working group to report to the Committee of Experts at its next session, to be held in 2016.

5/111
Knowledge base for geospatial information management

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Took note of the report on the knowledge base for geospatial information[11] and reiterated its critical role as a valuable tool for information-sharing and capacity-building;

(b) Noted the announcement of the completion of the report on the status of topographic mapping in the world by the International Society for

[11] See E/C.20/2015/11.

Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing and the proposal to establish a working group for possible future maintenance;

(c) Expressed its appreciation to the Ordnance Survey for its contribution in producing the document entitled "Future trends in geospatial information management: the five to ten year vision, Second Edition" in 2015, and requested the Bureau to define and communicate a process for its completion to the Committee of Experts with a view to finalizing it before the submission by the Committee of the review of its work to the Economic and Social Council in 2016;

(d) Expressed its views on the way forward for the knowledge base portal, including improvements such as the better integration of survey information collected, possible translation into other languages and additional items to be incorporated such as links to external reference documents produced by Member States and observers and links to training materials and workshops;

(e) Welcomed the proposed standardization of country reports and the offer of Member States and organizations, especially regional commissions, to contribute to the portal, and encouraged others to contribute additional material at the national and regional levels in accordance with an established process to be determined by the Secretariat;

(f) Requested the Secretariat to periodically report to the Committee of Experts on the continued maintenance of the portal.

5/112
Contribution of regional committees and thematic groups to the global geospatial agenda

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Took note of the reports of the regional committees and the Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies,[12] and expressed its appreciation for their valuable contributions, achievements and commitment to the global geospatial agenda;

(b) Proposed, in recognition of the 2015-2016 International Map Year, as endorsed by the Committee of Experts at its fourth session, to stage a map exhibition, focusing on sustainable development, in August 2016 during the sixth session of the Committee, and encouraged Member States to contribute with informative examples;

(c) Noted the excellent progress made by the transitional bureau, endorsed the formal establishment of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa, and welcomed the Economic Commission for Africa as the secretariat of the Regional Committee;

(d) With the completion of the regional United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management committee architecture and abundant information provided, agreed to elevate the regional and thematic groups in

[12] See E/C.20/2015/15.

the annual agenda of the Committee of Expert so that they might inform other areas of the work of the Committee;

(e) Noted the efforts of the Arctic Spatial Data Infrastructure in delivering regional data and the need to ensure continued cooperative efforts to support science and decision-making;

(f) Expressed its appreciation to Mexico and the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas for their leadership and efforts in supporting the Caribbean region in developing national geospatial information infrastructure, standards and capacity-building.

5/113
Programme review of the work of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management during the 2011-2015 period

The Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management:

(a) Took note of the comprehensive report prepared by the Secretariat,[13] which outlined in a succinct and adequate manner the considerable achievements and progress made by the Committee of Experts in the area of global geospatial information management since its establishment in 2011;

(b) Agreed that the review report to be prepared for the Economic and Social Council should be structured fundamentally around two key messages, namely, that the Committee of Experts had operated effectively and in line with the mandate given by the Council over the past five years, producing real outputs, and that the Committee was well placed to continue to contribute even more to the work of the United Nations, especially in the context of the implementation of the sustainable development agenda and the follow-up to the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, and recognized that the review report was seen to provide a welcome opportunity for strengthening the geospatial community's "value proposition", both at the global level through the Council and at the national level through Governments;

(c) Agreed that a call for strengthening the mandate of the Committee of Expert was appropriate and needed, in order for it to be at the same level as other subsidiary bodies of the Council and in order to strengthen its interaction with them, in particular the Statistical Commission, and also agreed that the role of the Committee, as an assembly of authoritative national government institutions in the field of geospatial information, was increasingly important in effectively coordinating the field of geospatial information management in the broader United Nations system;

(d) Stressed that sustainable funding for the operations of the Committee of Experts was needed to ensure its continued effectiveness, including conference support, substantive and technical secretariat support, and in particular the funding of the participation of national delegates from developing countries, in order to ensure a broad and balanced representation at the sessions of the Committee, and in this context gratefully acknowledged the

[13] See E/C.20/2015/14.

efforts of the Secretariat to secure short-term funding from a variety of sources over the past years and expressed its appreciation to the various donors, noted that such short-term funding is not sustainable and also noted that some of the funding would need to be secured through the consolidation of activities and the rationalization of the various geospatial bodies within the United Nations system;

(e) Recognized that the submission of the review report to the Council in 2016 would provide a unique opportunity to strengthen the subsidiary machinery of the Council in the area of geospatial information, and requested the Bureau to reach out to the other subsidiary bodies of the Council, including the regional cartographic conferences and the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names, to engage in a joint reflection over the coming months, with a view to presenting a common proposal in 2016;

(f) Approved the proposed process for finalizing the review, including: holding a global consultation in September/October 2015, based on a draft report to be prepared by the Secretariat in the light of the discussion held in the Committee, and subsequently entrusting the extended Bureau, including the Chairs of the five regional committees of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management with finalizing the document for submission to the Council in January 2016.

Chapter II
Items for endorsement, discussion and decision

A. Activities related to sustainable development and the post-2015 development agenda

3. The Committee of Experts considered item 13 of its agenda at its 2nd meeting, held on 5 August 2015. It had before it the report of the Secretariat on activities related to sustainable development and the post-2015 development agenda.* Introductory statements were made by the representative of Denmark.

4. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Belgium, Norway, the Bahamas, Australia, Italy, Sweden, the United Kingdom, Slovenia, Japan, Germany, Chile, Uruguay, Mexico, the United States of America, Canada, Nigeria, Poland, Bangladesh and Brazil, and by the observer for the International Standards Organization.

5. Also at the same meeting, the Director of the Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

6. At its 6th meeting, held on 7 August 2015, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 5/101).

B. Global geodetic reference frame

7. The Committee of Experts considered item 3 of its agenda at its 2nd meeting, held on 5 August 2015. It had before it the report by the working group on the global geodetic reference frame.* The Co-Chair of the working group made introductory statements.

8. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Australia, Canada, Malaysia, Fiji, Jamaica, Germany, France, Japan, the Philippines, Belgium, Finland, Slovenia, the Republic of Korea, Norway, Saudi Arabia, the United States, Mexico, the Republic of Moldova, Nigeria, Spain, Ethiopia, South Africa, Uruguay, China and Austria, and by the observer for the Group on Earth Observations.

9. Also at the same meeting, the Secretariat made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

10. At its 6th meeting, held on 7 August 2015, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 5/102).

C. Determination of global fundamental geospatial data themes

11. The Committee of Experts considered item 4 of its agenda at its 2nd meeting, held on 5 August 2015. It had before it the report of the Regional Committee of

* Available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee of Experts (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html).

United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Europe on the determination of global fundamental geospatial data themes. The Chair of the Regional Committee and the Secretariat made introductory statements.

12. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Ireland, Italy, Sweden, Belgium, Japan, Chile, Jamaica, Canada, Nigeria, the Philippines, Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, Ethiopia, Mexico, the United States, the Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Austria, Uruguay, Bangladesh, Jordan, Poland and Saint Lucia, and by the observer for the Group on Earth Observations.

13. Also at the same meeting, the Secretariat made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

14. At its 6th meeting, held on 7 August 2015, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 5/103).

D. Integration of geospatial, statistical and other information

15. The Committee of Experts considered item 8 of its agenda at its 3rd meeting, held on 6 August 2015. It had before it the report of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information on the integration of geospatial, statistical and other information.* The Co-Chair of the Expert Group made introductory statements.

16. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Chile, Jamaica, Singapore, Australia, Germany, Sweden, Nigeria, Poland, the Bahamas, Burkina Faso, Slovenia, Saint Maarten/The Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Qatar, the United States, the Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Cuba, Mexico, Colombia, Jordan, Austria, Saint Lucia, Argentina, Côte d'Ivoire, the Niger and Oman, and by the observers for EuroGeographics, Gaia GeoSystems, Technical Committee 211 of the International Organization for Standardization, the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (URISA), the European Union and the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing.

17. Also at the same meeting, the Director of the Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

18. At its 6th meeting, held on 7 August 2015, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 5/104).

E. Application of geospatial information related to land administration and management

19. The Committee of Experts considered item 9 of its agenda at its 3rd meeting, held on 6 August 2015. It had before it the report of the Secretariat on the application of geospatial information related to land administration and management.* Introductory statements were made by the representative of the Netherlands.

* Available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee of Experts (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html).

20. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Canada, Jamaica, Chile, Malaysia, Tunisia, the Netherlands, the Philippines, Singapore, Belgium, the United Kingdom, the United States, the Republic of Korea, Ethiopia, Sweden, Côte d'Ivoire, Norway, Jordan, Nigeria, Mexico, Uruguay, Saint Kitts and Nevis and El Salvador, and by the observers for the International Federation of Surveyors and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat).

21. Also at the same meeting, the Secretariat made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

22. At its 6th meeting, held on 7 August 2015, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 5/105).

F. Trends in national institutional arrangements in geospatial information management

23. The Committee of Experts considered item 5 of its agenda at its 3rd meeting, held on 6 August 2015. It had before it the report of the working group on trends in national institutional arrangements on the trends in national institutional arrangements in geospatial information management.* Introductory statements were made by the Chair of the working group and the task team leads.

24. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Chile, the United Kingdom, Japan, Belgium, Sri Lanka, the Republic of Korea, Nigeria, Brazil, the United States and Uruguay, and by the observers for the Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association and the Group on Earth Observations.

25. Also at the same meeting, the Secretariat made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

26. At its 6th meeting, held on 7 August 2015, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 5/106).

G. Legal and policy frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data

27. The Committee of Experts considered item 6 of its agenda at its 4th meeting, held on 6 August 2015. It had before it the report of the Secretariat, prepared in collaboration with the Centre for Spatial Law and Policy, on legal and policy frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data.* The observer for the Centre for Spatial Law and Policy made introductory statements.

28. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the United Kingdom, Australia, Belgium, Italy, Sweden, Ethiopia, Canada, Japan, Malaysia, the Niger and Fiji, and the observers for the Open Geospatial Consortium, Supreme and Co., URISA, the International Bar Association and Geomedia.

29. Also at the same meeting, the Secretariat made concluding remarks.

* Available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee of Experts (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html).

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

30. At its 6th meeting, held on 7 August 2015, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 5/107).

H. Implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community

31. The Committee of Experts considered item 7 of its agenda at its 4th meeting, held on 6 August 2015. It had before it the joint report prepared by the Open Geospatial Consortium, Technical Committee 211 of the International Organization for Standardization and the International Hydrographic Organization on the implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community.* The observer for the Open Geospatial Consortium made introductory statements.

32. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the United States, Australia, Jamaica, Nigeria, Canada, Norway, Poland, the United Kingdom, Singapore, Mexico and Germany, and the observers for EuroGeographics, the Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association, the European Commission, the Group on Earth Observations and URISA.

33. Also at the same meeting, the Secretariat made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

34. At its 6th meeting, held on 7 August 2015, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 5/108).

I. Development of a statement of shared guiding principles for geospatial information management

35. The Committee of Experts considered item 10 of its agenda at its 4th meeting, held on 6 August 2015. It had before it the report of the working group on the development of a statement of shared guiding principles for geospatial information management.* Introductory statements were made by the representative of New Zealand.

36. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Australia, Singapore, Japan and Canada, and the observers for the Group on Earth Observations.

37. Also at the same meeting, the Secretariat made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

38. At its 6th meeting, held on 7 August 2015, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 5/109).

* Available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee of Experts (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html).

J. Coordination of United Nations activities related to geospatial information management

39. The Committee of Experts considered item 12 of its agenda at its 5th meeting, held on 7 August 2015. It had before it the report of the Secretariat, prepared with the assistance of the United Nations Geographic Information Working Group, the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names and the United Nations Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities, on the coordination of United Nations activities related to geospatial information.* The Co-Chair of the United Nations Geographic Information Working Group and the Secretariat made introductory statements.

40. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Japan, Italy, Ethiopia, the Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Chile, Liberia, Sweden, Slovenia, Canada, the Philippines, Brazil, Mexico, Sri Lanka, South Africa, the United Kingdom, China, Burkina Faso, Bangladesh, Oman, Norway, Saudi Arabia, Poland, Iceland, the United States, Germany, Jamaica, Uruguay, Australia, Qatar, Spain and the Niger, and the observers for the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Group on Earth Observations, the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency and the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing.

41. Also at the same meeting, the Director of the Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

42. At its 6th meeting, held on 7 August 2015, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 5/110).

K. Knowledge base for geospatial information management

43. The Committee of Experts considered item 11 of its agenda at its 5th meeting, held on 7 August 2015. It had before it the report of the Secretariat on the development of a knowledge base for geospatial information management.* Introductory statements were made by the Secretariat.

44. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Germany, Japan, the United Kingdom, Finland, Mexico, Canada, Burkina Faso, Belgium, Chile, Cambodia, Spain, the Republic of Moldova, the United States, China and Jordan, and the observers for EuroGeographics, the Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association, the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing, Esri, the Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

45. Also at the same meeting, the Director of the Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

* Available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee of Experts (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html).

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

46. At its 6th meeting, held on 7 August 2015, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 5/111).

L. Contribution of regional committees and thematic groups to the global geospatial agenda

47. The Committee of Experts considered item 15 of its agenda at its 5th meeting, held on 7 August 2015. It had before it the report of the Secretariat compiled on behalf of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific; the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas; the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Africa; the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Europe; the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the Arab States; and the Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies, on their activities.* Each of the Chairs made introductory statements.

48. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the United States, Japan, Jamaica, Mexico and Trinidad and Tobago.

49. Also at the same meeting, the Director of the Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

50. At its 6th meeting, held on 7 August 2015, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 5/112).

M. Programme review of the work of the Committee of Experts during the 2011-2015 period

51. The Committee of Experts considered item 14 of its agenda at its 1st meeting and 5th meetings, held on 5 and7 August, respectively. It had before it the report of the Secretariat on the programme review of the work of the Committee during the 2011-2015 period.* Introductory statements were made by the Secretariat.

52. At the 1st meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Australia, Sweden, Japan, Uruguay, Spain, Canada, the United Kingdom, Italy, Mexico, Norway, the United States, Belgium, Saudi Arabia and Japan.

53. At the 5th meeting, the Director of the Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

54. At its 6th meeting, held on 7 August 2015, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 5/113).

* Available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee of Experts (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html).

Chapter III

Provisional agenda and dates for the sixth session of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

55. The Committee of Experts considered item 16 of its agenda at its 6th meeting, held on 7 August 2015. It had before it a note by the Secretariat containing the draft provisional agenda for the sixth session of the Committee of Experts.*

56. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Japan and the United Kingdom.

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

57. At its 6th meeting, held on 7 August 2015, the Committee of Experts approved the draft provisional agenda for its sixth session, as orally amended, and entrusted the Bureau with streamlining and finalizing it. The Committee also decided to recommend it to the Economic and Social Council for approval (see chap. I, sect. A).

58. At the same meeting, the Committee of Experts decided to recommend to the Economic and Social Council that its sixth session be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 3 to 5 August 2016 (see chap. I, sect. A).

* Available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee of Experts (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html).

Chapter IV

Report of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management on its fifth session

59. The Committee of Experts considered item 17 of its agenda at its 6th meeting, held on 7 August 2015. It had before it the draft report contained in an informal paper.

Action taken by the Committee of Experts

60. At its 6th meeting, held on 7 August 2015, the Committee of Experts adopted the draft report on its fifth session, as orally revised, and entrusted the Rapporteur with streamlining and finalizing it, with the support of the Secretariat. Following the adoption of the draft report, the Co-Chairs made closing statements.

Chapter V
Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

61. The Committee of Experts held its fifth session from 5 to 7 August 2015 at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The Committee held six meetings (1st to 6th). The Co-Chair of the Committee, Vanessa Lawrence (United Kingdom), opened the session.

B. Attendance

62. The session was attended by 290 participants, including 216 representatives from 85 Member States and 7 representatives from 1 non-Member State. Also present were 67 representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations. The list of participants is available from the website of the Committee of Experts at http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html.

C. Election of officers

63. At its first meeting, held on 5 August 2015, the Committee of Experts elected the following officers by acclamation:

Co-Chairs:
Tim Trainor (United States of America)
Rolando Ocampo (Mexico)
Li Pengde (China)

Rapporteur:
Abdoulaye Belem (Burkina Faso)

D. Credentials

64. At its first meeting, held on 5 August 2015, the Committee of Experts invited the following organizations, which do not have consultative status with a relevant United Nations body, to participate as observers at its fifth session: Airbus Defence and Space, Association of Caribbean States, Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency, Center for International Earth Science Information Network, Centre for Spatial Law and Policy, Coordinates, ConsultingWhere Ltd, DigitalGlobe, Esri, EuroGeographics, Gates Foundation, Gaia GeoSystems, GeoThings, GIM International, Group on Earth Observations Secretariat, Geospatial Media and Communications, Global Government Forum, International Association of Geodesy, International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing, Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies, Kokusai Kogyo Company, MDA Geospatial Services, National Aeronautics and Space Administration/Jet Propulsion Laboratory, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Open Geospatial Consortium, Oracle Corporation, Pan American Institute of Geography and History, Pasco Corporation, Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, Supreme and Co.,

Taylor Wessing, Trimble, Tribhuvan University, Urban and Regional Information Systems Association Caribbean Chapter and the University of the West Indies.

E. Agenda and organization of work

65. At its first meeting, held on 5 August 2015, the Committee of Experts adopted its provisional agenda, as contained in document E/C.20/2015/1. The agenda read as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Global geodetic reference frame.
4. Determination of global fundamental geospatial data themes.
5. Trends in national institutional arrangements in geospatial information management.
6. Legal and policy frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data.
7. Implementation and adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community.
8. Integration of geospatial, statistical and other information.
9. Application of geospatial information related to land administration and management.
10. Development of a statement of shared guiding principles for geospatial information management.
11. Knowledge base for geospatial information management.
12. Coordination of United Nations activities related to geospatial information management.
13. Activities related to sustainable development and the post-2015 development agenda.
14. Programme review of the work of the Committee of Experts during the 2011-2015 period.
15. Contribution of regional committees and thematic groups to the global geospatial agenda.
16. Provisional agenda and dates for the sixth session of the Committee of Experts.
17. Report of the Committee of Experts on its fifth session.

66. At the same meeting, the Committee of Experts approved the organization of the work of the session.*

* Available in the language of submission only from the website of the Committee of Experts (http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html).

F. Rules of procedure

67. At its first meeting, held on 5 August 2015, the Committee of Experts adopted its rules of procedure, as contained in document E/C.20/2015/2.

G. Documentation

68. The documents before the Committee of Experts at its fifth session are available from the website at http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html.

15-14222 (E) 290915

Please recycle